



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1948.

KRUG APPEALS TO GOVERNORS AND MAYORS ON RAT CONTROL

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug today offered Federal technical aid in establishing rat control programs to all governors and to the mayors of 1,077 cities with populations of 10,000 or over.

In a letter to the governors and mayors Secretary Krug said that "with so much human suffering in the world, we can ill afford to waste food; and with living costs as high as they are, saving food means saving money for our people." He pointed to the "United States' annual loss of a billion dollars' worth of food destroyed, or contaminated by rats."

These appeals by Secretary Krug marked the initial step in organizing a nationwide campaign to rid our cities of rats. Preparatory work started last month with the creation of the National Committee for Rat Control, made up of representatives of civic groups and industries closely affected by the rat problem.

Hamilton M. Warren, chairman of the National Committee and vice-president of the National Carbon Co., New York, declared, "I am looking forward to the speedy nomination by mayors of local citizens' committees for rat control.

"The billions of dollars and the tons of food stolen from us by the rats each year should make it obvious that a city which fails to participate in this campaign is working against the best interests of its people. Today we can use with profit the old slogan, 'It's no disgrace to have rats; it's a disgrace to keep them,' Warren said.

Secretary Krug asked the mayors to appoint rat control committees to work with the experts in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has temporarily expanded its field staff for the duration of the campaign. Posters, leaflets, technical bulletins and professional advice will be dispatched to cooperating cities as soon as names of local committee chairmen are received in Washington.

EDITORS NOTE: Copies of the Governors' and Mayors' letters and "Information for correspondents are attached.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Governor _____:

Your State shares in the staggering annual bill of a billion dollars that rats cost this country in food consumed or wasted. In these days of high prices and human suffering, our citizenry can ill afford this waste.

I have recently appointed a committee of industrialists to spearhead a National Urban Rat Control Campaign during March and April. Our immediate aim is a temporary drive supplementing local action and stimulating existing public interest and participation. This will supply momentum to long-range rat control programs initiated by the States and cities.

Your personal assistance in authorizing the full cooperation of your State Health Department will have direct results in improving your State. For further information, I am enclosing a copy of my letter addressed to the Mayors of cities of over 10,000 in your State.

To show the importance of this campaign and what a long-range program can accomplish, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia have asked that Washington be designated as the National Demonstration City. If you or your Health Officer are in Washington during March or April, it would give me great pleasure to arrange for your review of demonstration activities. I should appreciate hearing from you in advance of such a visit.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) J. A. Krug,

Secretary of the Interior.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mayor _____

This letter is about rats -- and a National Committee on Rat Control which I have just appointed to encourage every city of more than 10,000 to inaugurate a rat control program with our Fish and Wildlife Service furnishing technical aid.

Your city can share in this program as it shares in the United States' annual loss of a billion dollars' worth of food destroyed, or contaminated by rats. With so much human suffering in the world, we can ill afford to waste food; and with living costs as high as they are, saving food means saving money for our people.

The cooperation of your city is vital to the success of the program. We have obtained the assistance of top men in industry and such organizations as the U. S. Conference of Mayors to guide us.

Knowledge of rat control is useless without the action which the citizens of your community can give this program. While the present effort is a short-term program to save food, there will be long-time gains for your city in better sanitation, rat-proofing and general civic improvements.

Your health department knows that rats can spread typhus, spirochetel jaundice and other diseases. They are our deadliest enemy.

We are in a position to give you extensive help in ridding your city of rats if you will immediately appoint a committee to work with us. Will you send me the name of your Committee Chairman as quickly as possible so that technical assistance can be scheduled for you at an early date.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. A. Krug,

Secretary of the Interior.

Information for Correspondents on Rat Control

Any or all of the following information on the National Urban Rat Control Campaign may be obtained from Fish and Wildlife Service, Room 7216, Interior Building, Washington 25, D. C., Tel: RE-1820, Ext. 3171.

1. The National Urban Rat Control Campaign.

5 pages describing need for campaign, how it is organized, progress to date, and future plans.

2. Facts About Rats.

5 pages of one- to ten-line paragraph-fillers containing facts for use as is or for working into stories.

3. Reading List for Rat Control.

1 page listing brief popular pamphlets and slide films, including publicity pamphlets published by cities.

4. Where to Find Rat Control Experts.

Addresses of experts throughout the country, including field rat-control staff of U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

5. The House Rat.

Rat Control.

Ratproofing.

Rat Control Methods.

4 short technical pamphlets describing rats, rat damage, and specific methods for control.

6. Selection of 8 x 10 glossy photographs.

Showing rats, rat damage, specific situations inviting rats, proper treatment to prevent rats.